

DEMOTING VISHNU



*Ritual, Politics, and the Unraveling
of Nepal's Hindu Monarchy*



ANNE T. MOCKO

Demoting Vishnu Politics Unraveling Monarchy

Clemens Wendtner



Demoting Vishnu Politics Unraveling Monarchy:

Demoting Vishnu Anne T. Mocko, 2016 This book examines how public ritual once placed kings at the privileged apex of Nepal's government and how in the 21st century those same rituals stopped serving the king and turned instead to authorize party based politicians Ritual upheaval undermined the institutional logic of monarchy and demonstrated that kingship was contingent dispensable

Media as Politics in South Asia Sahana Udapa, Stephen McDowell, 2017-07-14 From the puzzling liberalization of media under military dictatorship in Pakistan to the brutal killings of journalists in Sri Lanka and the growing influence of social media in riots and political protests in India Nepal and Bangladesh the chapters analyse some of the most important developments in the media fields of contemporary South Asia Attentive to colonial histories as well as connections within and beyond South Asia in the age of globalization the chapters combine theoretically grounded studies with original empirical research to unravel the dynamics of media as politics

Ritual Innovation Brian K. Pennington, Amy L. Allocco, 2018-02-01 Religious rituals are often seen as unchanging and ahistorical bearers of long standing traditions But as this book demonstrates ritual is a lively platform for social change and innovation in the religions of South Asia Drawing from Hindu and Jain examples in India Nepal and North America the essays in this volume written by renowned scholars of religion explore how the intentional conscious and public invention or alteration of ritual can effect dramatic social transformation whether in dethroning a Nepali king or sanctioning same sex marriage Ritual Innovation shows how the very idea of ritual as a conservative force misreads the history of religion by overlooking ritual's inherent creative potential and its adaptability to new contexts and circumstances

Routledge Handbook of Highland Asia Jelle J.P. Wouters, Michael T. Heneise, 2022-08-09 The Routledge Handbook of Highland Asia is the first comprehensive and critical overview of the ethnographic and anthropological work in Highland Asia over the past half a century Opening up a grand new space for critical engagement the handbook presents Highland Asia as a world region that cuts across the traditional divides inherited from colonial and Cold War area divisions the Indian Subcontinent South Asia Southeast Asia China East Asia and Central Asia Thirty two chapters assess the history of research identify ethnographic trends and evaluate a range of analytical themes that developed in particular settings of Highland Asia They cover varied landscapes and communities from Kyrgyzstan to India from Bhutan to Vietnam and bring local voices and narratives relating trade and tribute ritual and resistance pilgrimage and prophecy modernity and marginalization capital and cosmos to the fore The handbook shows that for millennia Highland Asians have connected far flung regions through movements of peoples goods and ideas and at all times have been the enactors repositories and mediators of world historical processes Taken together the contributors and chapters subvert dominant lowland narratives by privileging primarily highland vantages that reveal Highland Asia as an ecumene and prism that refracts and generates global history social theory and human imagination In the currently unfolding Asian Century this compels us to reorient and re envision Highland Asia in ethnography in theory and in the

connections between this world region made of hills highlands and mountains and a planetary context The handbook reveals both regional commonalities and diversities generalities and specificities and a broad orientation to key themes in the region An indispensable reference work this handbook fills a significant gap in the literature and will be of interest to academics researchers and students interested in Highland Asia Zomia Studies Anthropology Comparative Politics Conceptual History and Sociology Southeast Asian Studies Central Asian Studies and South Asian Studies as well as Asian Studies in general

Silhouettes of the Soul Otto Von Busch, Jeanine Viau, 2022-02-10 What is the relationship between the soul or inner life and what we wear in the making of identity and belief What bearing do religious and political belonging respectability and resistance have on the way in which we dress Why have more traditional religious practices been so prescriptive about body adornment Historically fashionable dress and religion have been positioned as polar opposites Silhouettes of the Soul brings them together placing them in conversation with each other By moving beyond traditional social scientific and historical analysis of religious attire and adornment the book presents a variety of disciplinary approaches from across regional social and religious locations Contentious and challenging as well as academically rigorous the book's diverse range of contributors from fashion and religious studies scholars to designers activists monastics and journalists explore the relationship between religion and fashion extending the meanings and possibilities of both dress and spirituality Combining interviews and personal stories with more traditional theoretical analysis Silhouettes of the Soul offers new ways of looking at the relationship between religion personal convictions and self expression our sense of self and our sense of fashion

Architecture of Sovereignty Gita V. Pai, 2023-11-16 In this innovative study Gita V Pai traces the history of the Pudu Mandapam Tamil new hall a Hindu temple structure in Madurai through the rise and fall of empires in south India from the seventeenth century to the present This wide ranging work illustrates how south Indian temples became entangled in broader conflicts over sovereignty from early modern Nayaka kings to British colonial rule to the post independence government today Drawing from methodologies in anthropology religious studies and art and architectural history the author argues that the small temple site provides profound insight into the relationship between aesthetics sovereignty and religion in modern South Asia

Sacred Kingship in World History A. Azfar Moin, Alan Strathern, 2022-05-10 Sacred kingship has been the core political form in small scale societies and in vast empires for much of world history This collaborative and interdisciplinary book recasts the relationship between religion and politics by exploring this institution in long term and global comparative perspective Editors A Azfar Moin and Alan Strathern present a theoretical framework for understanding sacred kingship which leading scholars reflect on and respond to in a series of essays They distinguish between two separate but complementary religious tendencies immanentism and transcendentalism which mold kings into divinized or righteous rulers respectively Whereas immanence demands priestly and cosmic rites from kings to sustain the flourishing of life transcendence turns the focus to salvation and subordinates rulers to higher ethical objectives Secular modernity does not

end the struggle between immanence and transcendence flourishing and righteousness but only displaces it from kings onto nations and individuals After an essay by Marshall Sahlins that ranges from the Pacific to the Arctic the book contains chapters on religion and kingship in settings as far flung as ancient Egypt classical Greece medieval Islam Mughal India modern European drama and ISIS Sacred Kingship in World History sheds new light on how religion has constructed rulership with implications spanning global history religious studies political theory and anthropology

The Oxford History of Hinduism: Modern Hinduism Torkel Brekke, 2019-06-27 The Oxford History of Hinduism Modern Hinduism focuses on developments resulting from movements within the tradition as well as contact between India and the outside world through both colonialism and globalization Divided into three parts part one considers the historical background to modern conceptualizations of Hinduism Moving away from the reforms of the 19th and early 20th century part two includes five chapters each presenting key developments and changes in religious practice in modern Hinduism Part three moves to issues of politics ethics and law This section maps and explains the powerful legal and political contexts created by the modern state first the colonial government and then the Indian Republic which have shaped Hinduism in new ways The last two chapters look at Hinduism outside India focusing on Hinduism in Nepal and the modern Hindu diaspora

Political Handbook of the World 2022-2023 Tom Lansford, 2023-06-27 The Political Handbook of the World 2022 2023 provides timely thorough and accurate political information with more in depth coverage of current political controversies than any other reference guide The updated 2022 2023 edition continues to be the most authoritative source for finding complete facts and analysis on each country s governmental and political makeup Tom Lansford has compiled in one place more than 200 entries on countries and territories throughout the world this volume is renowned for its extensive coverage of all major and minor political parties and groups in each political system It also provides names of key ambassadors and international memberships of each country plus detailed profiles of more than 30 intergovernmental organizations and UN agencies And this update will aim to include coverage of current events issues crises and controversies from the course of the last two years

The Festival of Indra Michael Baltutis, 2023-06-01 The Festival of Indra details the textual and performative history of an important South Asian festival and its role in the development of classical Hinduism Drawing on various genres of Sanskrit textual sources especially the epic Mahabharata the book highlights the innovative ways that this annual public festival has supported the stable royal power responsible for the sponsorship of these texts More than just a textual project however the book devotes significant ethnographic attention to the only contemporary performance of this festival that adheres to the classical Sanskrit record the Indrajatra of Kathmandu Nepal Here Indra s tall pole remains the festival s focal point though its addition of the royal blessing by Kumari the living goddess of Nepal and the regular presence of the fierce god Bhairav show several significant ways that ritual agents have re constructed this festival over the past two thousand years

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